DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
IDS or KL[illegible]NT. DATE _____
TC [illegible]. _____ EXCEPTION(S) _____
[illegible] MARKINGS ☐
[illegible] SEPARABLE ☐
RELEASE [illegible]
FOIA or PCY EXEMPTIONS
1716

Q. Why and under what authority did ~~y~~/ the government ~~spend lots of~~ money to bring back the bodies from Guyana?

------ On Sunday November 19 we faced a ~~[illegible]~~s crisis situation in Guyana. An American Congressmen had been murdered as well as other Americans in hi, party; a ~~colony~~ settlement believed to include over 1000 Americans was involved and its situation was uncertain. We had already authorized medical evaluation for the injured Americans. We recognized that the resources of the Government of Guyana were over strained by this ~~situation happening~~ events in an isolated area 120 miles from its capital. We offered whatever help the Government of Guyana might need to prevent further loss of life. /~~As~~/ ~~events progressed~~ The Guyanese indicated they needed helicopter lift and certain other items. As the events progressed, it became clear that we had large numbers of American dead. For a time we believed ~~it~~ there might be many survivors in the jungle and we adjusted and increased our assistance to help the search by Guyanese police and military. Finally when the ~~fact~~ number of dead was clear, there was no alternative in terms of identification, supporting the ongoing investigation of serious crimes, and treating the remains with dignity but to removed them as quickly as possible to a facility which could deal with this ~~problem~~ manner. Throught this tragedy I used by authority as chief executive and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to provide the support needed and requested by the Government of Guyana to handle the ~~horendous~~ horrendous situation. The primary cost was for transportation supplied by the US military.

Q. How will this operation be paid for?

A. No one envisioned such an event in preparing budgets. I shall seek additional appropriations to cover the costs when Congress returns. The appropriate departments are also examining the responsibilities of the Peoples Temple organization in regard to these costs.